

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1 - 9. (canceled).

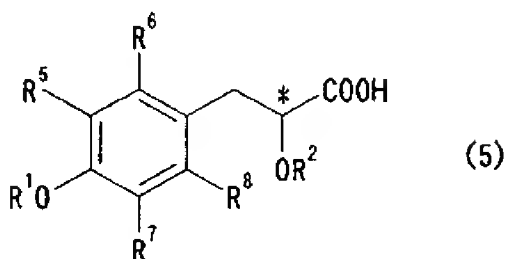
10. (previously presented): The process according to claim 14, wherein the optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 14 is crystallized from a solvent.

11. (original): The process according to claim 10, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

12. (previously presented): The process according to claim 15, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 15 is crystallized from a solvent.

13. (original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

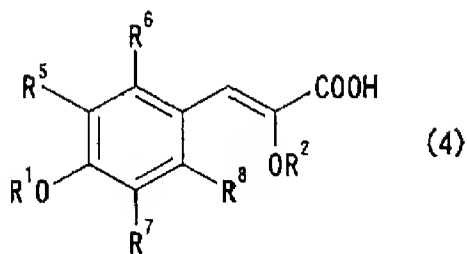
14. (currently amended) A process for producing an optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5):



wherein  $R^1$  is a protective group;  $R^2$  is an alkyl group;  $R^5$  to  $R^8$  are each a hydrogen atom; and the symbol \* is an chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof,

which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^5$  to  $R^8$  are each the same as defined above,

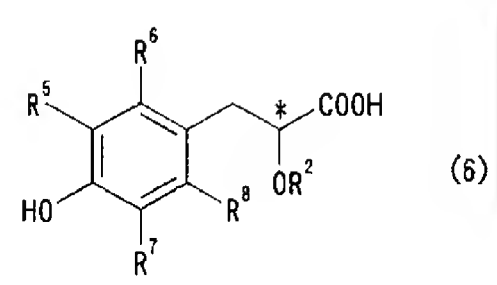
or a salt thereof,

to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst

which is a transition metal complex which is ~~a complex of Ruthenium~~ selected from the group consisting of  $Ru_2Cl_4[(S)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$ ,  $Ru_2Cl_4[(R)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$ ,  $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((S)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$  and  $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((R)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$ .

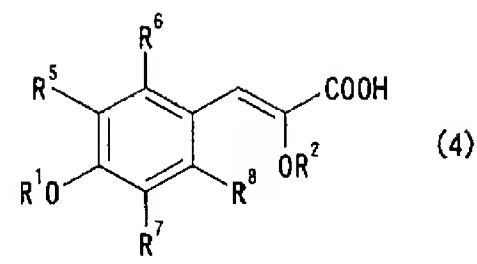
15. (currently amended) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):



wherein  $R^2$  is an alkyl group;  $R^5$  to  $R^8$  are each a hydrogen atom;

and the symbol \* is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):



wherein  $R^1$  is a protective group;

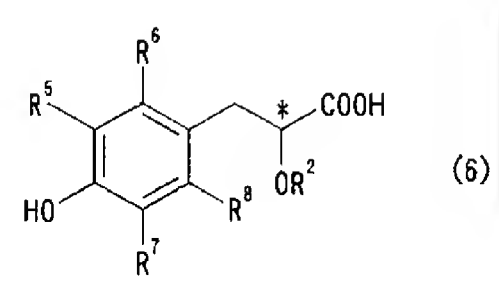
$R^2$  and  $R^5$  to  $R^8$  are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst

which is a transition metal complex which is ~~a complex of Ruthenium~~ selected from the group consisting of  $Ru_2Cl_4[(S)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$ ,  $Ru_2Cl_4[(R)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$ ,  $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((S)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$  and  $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((R)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$ .

16. (currently amended) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):

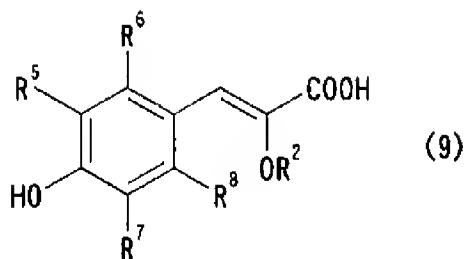


wherein R<sup>2</sup> is an alkyl group; R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are each a hydrogen atom;

and the symbol \* is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof,

which comprises subjecting a 4-hydroxycinnamic acid of the formula (9):



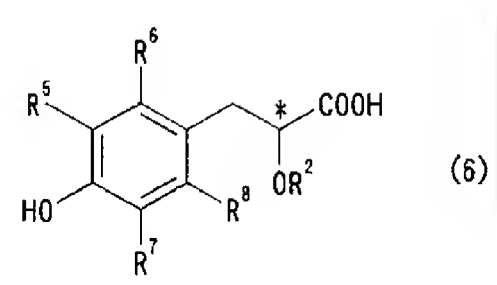
wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst

which is a transition metal complex which is ~~a complex of Ruthenium~~ selected from the group consisting of Ru<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>[(S)-H<sub>8</sub>-binap]<sub>2</sub>NEt<sub>3</sub>, Ru<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>[(R)-H<sub>8</sub>-binap]<sub>2</sub>NEt<sub>3</sub>, [RuCl(p-cymene)((S)-dm-segphos)]Cl and [RuCl(p-cymene)((R)-dm-segphos)]Cl.

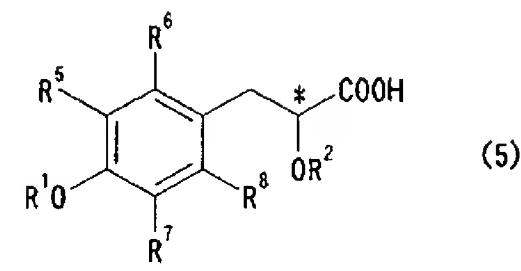
17. (currently amended) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):



wherein R<sup>2</sup> is an alkyl group; R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are each a hydrogen atom;

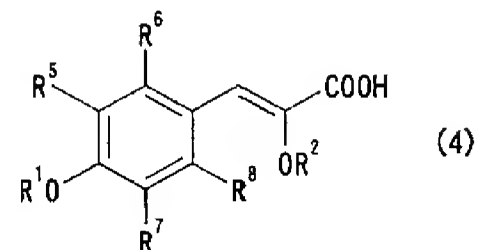
and the symbol \* is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof, and an optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a protective group; and R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> and the symbol \* are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^5$  to  $R^8$  are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst

which is a transition metal complex which is ~~a complex of Ruthenium~~ selected from the group consisting of  $Ru_2Cl_4[(S)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$ ,  $Ru_2Cl_4[(R)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$ ,  $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((S)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$  and  $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((R)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$ .

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented): The process according to claim 16, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 16 is crystallized from a solvent.

20. (previously presented): The process according to claim 19, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

21. (previously presented): The process according to claim 17, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof and the optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 17 is crystallized from a solvent.

22. (previously presented): The process according to claim 21, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.